

PROTECTING THE WATERSHED

An important effort for salmonid recovery is protection of remaining habitat within the Russian River watershed. For some private and public landowners, this simply involves becoming more aware of the effect of human activity on the watershed and limiting or mitigating the impact of their activities as much as possible. In other cases, it is most beneficial to protect the watershed by removing or managing human activity within the riparian zone as much as possible, such as through conservation easements or designated park areas. The following projects will protect the watershed by fostering stakeholder involvement in restoration efforts, encouraging dissemination of critical watershed information, planning for large-scale watershed restoration efforts and protecting riparian zones.

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA

Estimated Project Cost:
\$3.5 Million
for Feasibility Study

DESCRIPTION:

- Laguna de Santa Rosa drains a basin of 250 square miles that includes the adjacent cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa and Sebastopol
- The Laguna is considered to be an important factor in lowering the water surface elevation in the lower Russian River Flood Plain during flood events
- Increased sedimentation in the Laguna has decreased its flood control capabilities and possibly the extent of wetlands
- The County of Sonoma determined the Laguna to be a priority resource by enacting the Laguna de Santa Rosa Conservation Program in the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan
- The Laguna de Santa Rosa is currently the subject of a Feasibility Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with SCWA, and the cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol and Santa Rosa

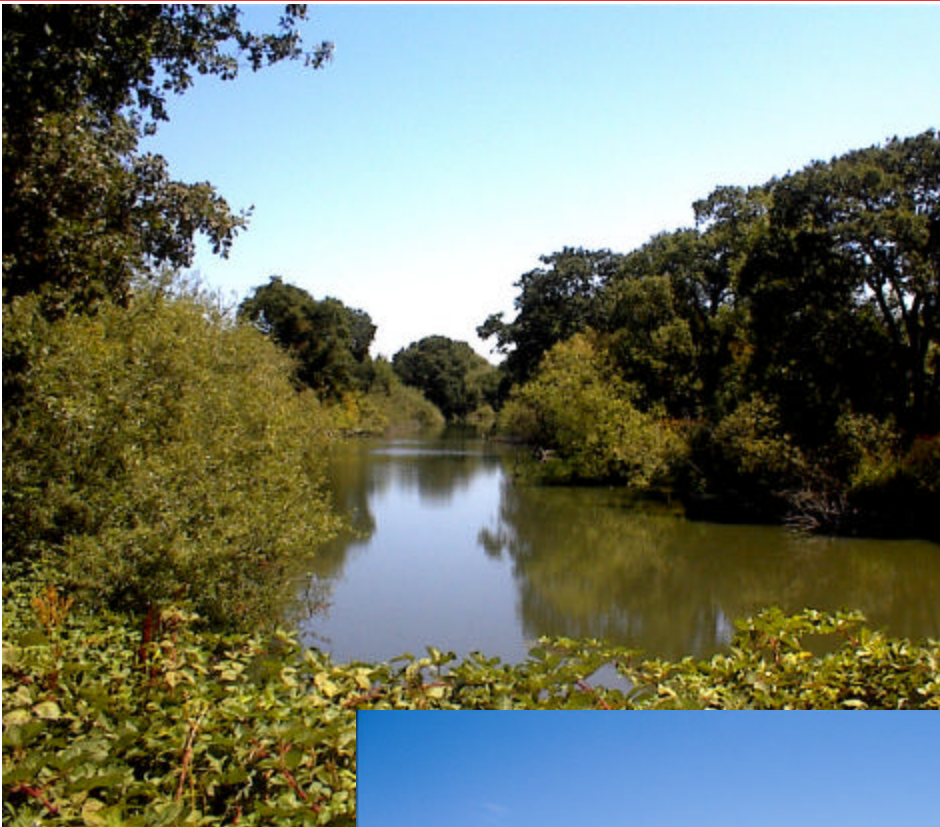
PROJECT GOAL

Help provide for the protection and restoration of the natural flood retention capability and historic wetland attributes of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a tributary to the Russian River.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS:

- City of Cotati
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Santa Rosa
- Laguna Foundation
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA



Once very effective at reducing flooding the in the lower Russian River, over time, silt, debris and encroaching development have reduced the Laguna de Santa Rosa's flood control capacity and adversely affected fish and wildlife species within the basin

